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opening extending from the bottom of the housing toward the top, each opening being defined by a first side, a second side and an apex, wherein [each] the openings and hooks [may reversibly retain] reversibly and bi-directionally retain a measuring tape having a tab in a close and substantially parallel alignment to a surface to be cut, wherein the tape extends laterally from the longitudinal axis of the housing, and wherein no additional parts or assembly are needed.

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9. (once amended) The utility knife of Claim 7 wherein the hook [may receive] reversibly receives various sizes of measuring tape tabs.

B3
11. (once amended) A utility knife for cutting surfaces consisting of a housing consisting of two pieces, the housing having a blade end and a back end, [the housing adapted to removably receive a cutting blade extending from the blade end,] wherein the housing comprises two juxtaposed halves, each half having top and a bottom and an opening extending from the bottom toward the top, each opening defining a hook for removably attaching a measuring tape tab, wherein the hooks are juxtaposed and between the blade end and the back end and each is [adapted] angled to hold a tape measure tab such that the measure may be extended during cutting and held in a position approximately parallel to the surface to be cut, and where no additional parts or assembly are needed.

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13. (once amended) The hook of claim 11 wherein the hook [may receive] removably receives variously sized measuring tape tabs.

Remarks

Claim 10 has been canceled. Claims 7 - 9 and 11 - 13 are pending in this application with claims 7, 9, 11 and 13 being amended. Claims 8 and 12 are dependent claims. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's helpful guidance in his Claim Objections and Claim Rejections under § 112, and Applicant has correspondingly amended the claims. Applicant has further amended the claims to clarify that the housing of the invention is two parts and that the hook is a part of the housing, and that the invention bi-directionally retains a tape measure, and that the hook is located between the blade end and the back end of the housing. Support for these amendments is found throughout the Specification, most particularly in Figures 1 and 2 and on pp. 4, 7 and 8. No new matter was added by way of these amendments.